

THANK YOU TO MR. LEE HAMMER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Lee Hammer for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Middle Tennessee and on my behalf.

Lee has served as a member of my Congressional Staff for two-and-a-half years, beginning in November of 1995. He is a highly motivated and very cooperative staffer. There is a great volume of detail work in a congressional office. Lee has pitched-in and has undertaken even the less glamorous aspects of the work with enthusiasm. Lee speaks well and has sound analytical skills. He is well-regarded by his fellow staff members.

In the course of his work, he has tracked and overseen the drafting of legislation, responded to constituent inquiries, represented me before industry and trade association representatives, and drafted testimony and floor statements. In my capacity as a member of the Commerce Committee, Lee has handled some of the legislative issues most important to me and to my constituents.

Lee has already completed a Masters Degree in Political Science and is preparing to undertake the study of law. At the close of this month, he will be leaving my office to pursue a legal education at the Southwestern University School of Law in his hometown of Los Angeles, California.

My staff and I join in wishing Lee the best of fortune as he enters law school.

IN HONOR OF ST. JOHN'S BYZANTINE CATHEDRAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of St. John's Byzantine Cathedral which is located in Parma, Ohio.

St. John's Cathedral had its small beginnings at St. Joseph's Chapel in 1898. There were only a few parishioners in the beginning, but as more people came the Reverend Peter Keselak deemed it necessary to construct a separate Church. The Church continued to grow, but, because of World War I, in 1918 St. John's was without a pastor. The Church struggled to stay together facing many difficulties. It is only because of the strong faith of the parishioners that St. John's managed to survive.

In March of 1922 Father Stephan Gulyassy became pastor of St. John's Church, and many of the advancements can be credited to him. He bought the land for the Parma site in 1945, and in 1969 St. John's Cathedral was moved to Parma. The Cathedral is still thriving at this site today.

There are many generations of dedicated parishioners who have attended St. John's,

and it is the 100 years of dedication which will be celebrated at this remarkable occasion. St. John's Cathedral has provided a great service to both its people and its community. It is because of this service that I ask you, my fellow colleagues, to please join me in congratulating the St. John's Byzantine Cathedral for its 100th year of service.

THE E IN E-RATE IS FOR EDUCATION NOT EVASION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support putting the E, for education, back in the e-rate.

One of the most touted accomplishments of the 104th Congress was the passage of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996. This legislation was hailed as the progenitor of a new era of technological innovation, entrepreneurial creativity and enhanced consumer choice in the telecommunications sector.

But what has happened since telecom reform passed has been the opposite of what was promised.

Local telephone rates have increased in many regions of our Nation. Competition has been threatened as major long-distance carriers rush to create a big brother bell from the babies antitrust had mandated a few years before.

Telecom conglomerates that spent millions lobbying this institution for reform have reaped the rewards of their aggressive advocacy efforts. Their profits are soaring.

However, despite these record gains, telecom's corporate giants have bluntly told our children that they are not going to honor their obligation to provide affordable technology for schools and libraries.

Recently, new telephone service surcharges have been imposed on consumers by a number of telecommunications companies.

These new fees will pass the costs of providing needed technology discounts to schools and libraries on to the consumers. This is intolerable.

The e-rate program is one of the few sections of the telecommunications bill that can directly benefit our young people.

The demands for technology in our schools is every-increasing and the longer we wait to meet this demand the further our Nation's children fall behind in the information age economy.

The telecom giants have earned billions through telecom reform. They should keep their promise to America's children.

Mr. Speaker, the E in e-rate is for education not evasion.

I urge the telecom giants to support the education of our children and stop evading their responsibilities.

FOURTH ANNUAL CITIZENSHIP DAY EVENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, on June 13, my staff and I hosted our Fourth Annual Citizenship Day Event. This is a one-stop application processing opportunity for residents who wish to become U.S. citizens.

With the help of local volunteers, elected officials, and community-based organizations, we were able to help 350 residents take their first step to becoming a U.S. citizen.

The Citizenship Day process consists of completing INS forms, taking photographs, and having attorneys and INS representatives review the application. Upon completing this process, the application is photocopied for the applicant and immediately mailed to INS.

Every year, I am amazed at the number of people who attend this event. While some of us tend to take for granted that we live in a great country, others wait in line all night long simply to submit an application to become a U.S. citizen.

Although an event like this takes many months of coordinating and planning, the rewards are remarkable. Not only does it provide a service to our community, but it also increases awareness among legal residents about the importance of becoming a citizen. Moreover, it's encouraging to see volunteers return every year to contribute their time and effort.

I am extremely thankful of the following volunteers, groups and organizations who assisted in making this event possible:

Houston Community College, Northeast Campus; Harris County Constable, Victor Trevino; Immigration and Naturalization Service; United States Postal Service; Houston Industries; League of United Latin American Citizens; National Association of Latino Elected Officials; Hispanic Women in Leadership; Rio Posada Restaurant; Fiesta Mart, Inc.; Hispanic Organization of Postal Employees; Houston Coca Cola Bottling Co.; Pizza Hut; Chase Bank; Telemundo, Channel 48; Univision, Channel 45; College Democrats @ University of Houston; Quan, Burdette & Perez, Attorneys at Law; Esther Alaniz; Alicia Almandariz; David Airhart; Artie Blanco; Delia Barajas; Debra Barnes; Yasmine Cadena; Mary Closner; Mitchell Contreras; Romero Cruz; Hector De Leon; Anselmo Davila; Armando Entenza; Arthur Flores; Charles Flores; Dr. Margaret Ford; Celia Garcia; Cyndi Garza; Juan Garcia; Rosa Garcia; Reynaldo Garza; Victor Gonzalez; Juana Gonzalez; Priscilla Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Mary Guerrero; Rebecca Guerrero; Joe Granados; Ben D. Huynh; Ana Maria Lopez; Dorothy Ledezma; Alfred Martinez; John Martinez; Benny Martinez; Margaret Mata; Edward Melendez; Josephine Mendoza; John Meyer; Diana Morales; Sally Morin; Mercedes Nassar; Janie Munoz; Frances Munoz; Art Murillo; Ana Nunez; Sandra M. Orellana; Juan Padilla; Cesar De Paz; Richard Perez; Candy Perez; Andre Rodriguez; Jesse P. Ramirez; Francisco Rodriguez; Mayor Cipriano Romero; Juana Rosales; Rosa Ruelas; Yeannett Salazar; Thomas Sanchez; Olga Soliz; Diana Trevino; Marco Torres; Vera Vasquez; Suzanne Villareal; Patricia Valdez; Ralph Vasquez; and Shahid Waheed.